

*Civilisation and Races of Southern Italy* **403**

The Archbishop of Rouen sent thirty-seven youths to be educated in Palermo, probably for the ultimate purpose of introducing into the Latin churches the Gallican liturgy of France. It was more serious that Stephen showed open favour to French newcomers, whom he introduced into fiefs and posts in the Curia; of these Falcandus speaks with great bitterness, saying that after the insolent fashion of the people of France and Normandy, they applied the word "traitors" very readily to the Lombards, the Greeks, and the opponents of the Chancellor generally. He dwells at length upon the determined attempts made by these foreigners to introduce the feudal customs of North France into Sicily. Thus, John of Lavardino, who had been given the lands of Matthew Bonello, created a general revolt by demanding, according to the custom of his country, half the movable goods of his *oppidani* (people of the communes), to which they retorted that they were only bound to give of their free will according to their lord's necessities, and at fixed periods; only Greek and Saracen *villani* were subject to the heavier exactions. The Chancellor

was accused of an intention to subject  
the whole  
people of Sicily to yearly dues and  
tributes  
according to the customs of France,  
"which has  
no free citizen class"—*quod cives liberos  
non  
Haberet*" The attempt to feudalise  
the local  
customs of Sicily on the North-French  
system met  
with failure,